The Call Letter

April 2021
Vol 47, #4

Early Microphones From Mark Moore's Gresham Museum Display

The Northwest Vintage Radio Society

Post Office Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

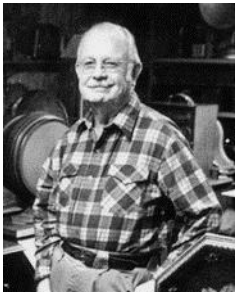
The Northwest Vintage Radio Society is a non-profit historical society incorporated in the State of Oregon. Since 1974 the Society has been dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of "Vintage Radio" and wireless equipment.

Membership in the Society is open to all who are actively interested in historic preservation. The dues are $25.00 for domestic membership, due on January 1st of each year (prorated quarterly).

The Call Letter has been a monthly publication since 1974. It was originated with the founder, Bob Bilbie, and our first president, Harley Perkins. Through several editors and with the assistance of numerous society members, the Call Letter has continued to be a publication that informs members of the society's business and that supports the hobby of collecting, preserving, and restoring vintage radios.

Society meetings are held the second Saturday of each month at the Abernethy Grange Hall at 15745 S. Harley Ave. in Oregon City, Oregon. They convene at or about 9:30 AM for the purpose of displaying radios, conducting Society business, and exchanging information. Guests are welcome at all Society meetings and functions (except board meetings).

Other Society functions include guest speakers, auctions, radio shows, and radio sales which are advertised in the Call Letter and are held in and around Portland.



With each issue of the Call Letter, we remember Jim Mason, a charter member of the society who remained active until his death in 1999. A generous bequest from Jim's estate ensures the vitality of the Northwest Vintage Radio Society, and continued publication of the Call Letter.

Society Officers

President	Pat Kagi 360 909-7009	patkagi@yahoo.com
Vice President	Franklin Ouchida	crazykeychains@gmail.com
Treasurer	Ed Tompkins (360) 573-3895	edtomp@Q.com
Recording Sec'y	Liles Garcia (503) 649-9288	landn2@frontier.com
Corresponding Sec'y	Mark Moore (503) 286-5224	mark@pdxhistory.com
Board member at large	Mike McCrow (503)730-4639	soundmikey14@gmail.com
Librarian	Jeff LaDoe (503) 408-4446	flat4pdx@gmail.com
Call Letter Editor	Don Hanson 503 630 2720	vanguard4@lycos.com

On the Cover

Early Microphones from Mark Moore's Gresham Museum Display

April Table of Contents

Announcements....1
President's Note and VP's Note....2
NWVRS Meeting Minutes - by Liles Garcia....3
Tube of the Month: '01-A (and National Union) by Mike McCrow....4
Photos from the N display at today's meeting by Dan Howard....5
Wave King Radio, Dealer, and Coils by Art Redman....7
How I became interested in vintage radio by David Jorgenson....10
National SW3 receiver shown at the meeting by Mark Richardson....11
"Naked Lady" Radio shown at the meeting by Ed Tompkins..... Foldout
Radio Captivates the World by Mark Moore....14
Radiolaguy's Monthly Showcase....16
Swap Shop....16

Announcements

April 2021 meeting - Sat. Apr.10, 9:30 am - details in email
April 2021 Monthly Feature - Radios with a O in their name
April Tech Talk - None this month
April Tube of the Month – '01-A (well, it's pronounced "O")
Leads and Needs - The Swap Shop is for members' classified ads. Ads are free and can either be permanent or temporary.
Editor's Note - Please have May Call Letter contributions in by Sunday, April 30. Articles & Ads welcome. (Tube labels too).
(No Calendar of Events this month due to cancellations)

Visit our web site at: www.nwvrs.com
Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/nwvrs

President's Message for April 2021

At the swap meet we learned that **Mark Dinsmore has just retired**. Mark - you have our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement!

The vaccines are starting to open up now and some of you have already received your 2nd shot. It also looks like radio sales and auctions are also starting back up again, so please be patient for just a bit longer! The mini-radio sale on Saturday, March 27 was a success, so we don't anticipate any issues with a larger sale. Many thanks to those who helped set up and cleaned up afterwards and a very special thanks to James Harper and Bob Dieffenbach for their generous donations, and to David Jorgenson who has donated items that will be auctioned off at the Abernethy Grange on Sunday, April 25th. He has also written an excellent article for this issue on how he became interested in antique/vintage radio repair and restoration.

There will be the annual spring radio sale in Aurora, on Saturday, May 15th 2021. Please contact Robbie Robinson for further details. There will also be an auction items from the David Jorgenson family on Sunday, April 25th 2021 at the Abernethy Grange in Oregon City. Many thanks to Jeff Quay, John Ellingson and Esteban Mendoza for making this happen. We will also have radios for sale from Rick Ryan's estate and possibly other estates as well.

Is there anyone out there that goes out and looks for radio sales on Craig's list, auction houses, estate sales, etc. on a regular basis? I'd like to hear from you if you do.

Remember that the McCracken estate sale will be on Saturday, April 17th. There should be a lot of radios to buy.

Thanks and take care, Pat

VP's Message for April 2021

Monthly Features – Radios start with an 'O'.
Please let me know if you are interested in doing a Tech Talk over Zoom! Share your Knowledge with the Club!
Zoom meeting Saturday April 10, 2021 at 9:30.
Anyone without email access that would like a phone call with urgent NWVRS information. Please contact me by phone to be put on a call list.
Join us every Wednesday at 7:00 pm for WRNZ on Zoom for a radio chat session!

It's just some thoughts.

Franklin Terry Ouchida

NWVRS Meeting Minutes - March 13, 2021
Recorded by Secretary Liles Garcia

President Pat Kagi called the March 2021 meeting of the NorthWest Vintage Radio Society to order at 9:30 AM using the Zoom meeting application. Members pledged allegiance to our nation's flag. Mark Dinsmore is recovering from a stroke; best wishes to Mark for a quick recovery!! We still need a secretary for our group. We are checking with the Grange about a park bench to remember past NWVRS members. Mike McCrow is providing a radio for a door prize for a car show in August. Mike will keep the group up to date on the details of the car show.

We will have a small swap meet at the Grange on March 27. Swap tables will be free; we need people to help set up and take down. Contact Pat if you can help out. We will give free Society membership to the OSU Ham Radio Club members. Many thanks to Dan Howard for his book "The Voices of Vanport - Radio and the Flood of '48" and for providing copies of his book to NWVRS members. Also, thanks to Dan for his article in the March Call Letter. Robbie Robinson will check on the building for a June swap meet in Aurora.

The Monthly Feature for today is "Radios with an 'N' in their name. Ed Tompkins showed a 'naked lady' radio. Dick and Dan Howard showed a Nesco radio and a novelty radio that looked like a NAPA car battery. Mark Richardson showed a National SW-3 radio; and Ozzie Osborne showed a Normande portable radio. Mike McCrow told the group about National Union tubes. National Union also made transistors for a short time. The Program Topic for next month will be "Different Brands of -01A tubes." The minutes of the February meeting were approved as published in the March 2021 Call Letter. Pat would like to have a Tech Talk about Amateur Radio. Robbie Robinson agreed to give a talk about Amateur Radio at our next meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

Tube of the Month: '01A

by Mike McCrow (Ed. note: This is the article for this month.)

Hi everyone. I am going with the 01A for the O month. Although in reality the tube is a zero-one-A. Oh well, everyone calls it an Oh one A. I started to do some research on the development of the most popular tube in the 1920's. I found that Sonny Clutter has a very well written document on early vacuum tubes of the 1920's and 30's. Just go to his website radiolaguy.com, click on "Information" then scroll down to "Tube info for newbies (Some things you may not know)" Check it out.

Tube of the Month: National Union Radio Corp.

by Mike McCrow (Ed. note: This is the article from March.)

National Union was formed in 1929 by the merger of four companies: Conneway Electric laboratories, Northern Manufacturing Co., Sonatron Tube Co., and Televocal Corporation. Manufacturing was done at two factories, one on State Street and one on McCarter Hwy. in Newark NJ. The main products were radio receiving tubes. Sylvester Muldowny was President from the company founding, until midway through WWII. The major stockholders were Muldowney, Lehman Brothers, and Sears.

National Union made all the standard receiving tubes of the time. Originally tubes used the standard number preceded with NV, NX, or NY. Around 1935 all tube numbers started with NU. By 1936 the NU prefix was discontinued.

In 1939 Muldowney started looking into the company making tubes for the military. At the board of directors meeting on December 12th 1941 the chairman reported the company was going to propose that the Government finance a new building in Landsdale, PA to be used as a factory for wartime tubes. The lease of the building was approved by the board. Several companies with defense contracts began making orders for tubes. Such as Bendix, Western Electric, and the US Signal Corps. Some British radar tubes were sold as well.

After the war National Union started making consumer tubes at the Landsdale factory. In 1952 the company began research into transistor manufacturing. They developed two main types. Junction and point contact. Their transistors as it turned out were very expensive, as high as $61.00 in 1953-54.

National Union Radio Corp. continued operating until June of 1954. It was renamed National Union Electric Corp. By November it sold its TV tube plant to Sylvania.

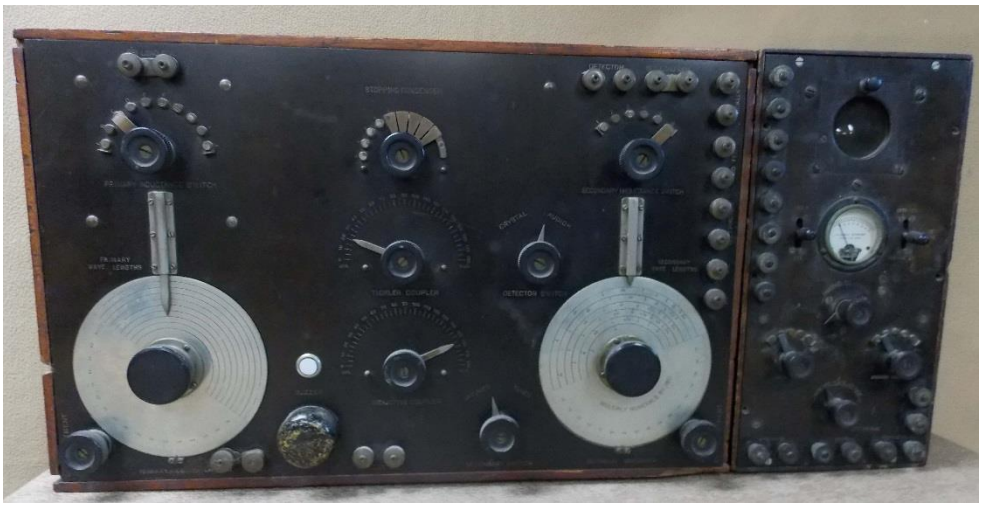
Photos from the N display at today's meeting

by Dan Howard

The first photo shows a pair of National Union tube boxes. These "Sound X/tra" versions of audio tubes were marketed as premium tubes for heavy duty audio work. A story in the July 1940 Radio-Craft says that Sound X/tra tubes incorporated "extra heavy and rugged supports with special micas to insure freedom from noise and microphonics."

The audiophiles and tube specialists in the group may want to weigh-in on the veracity of NU's claims of superior performance. As an aside, the special cardboard boxes that the Sound X/tra's came packed in had metal ends, one of which was slotted so that the empty carton could serve as a penny bank.

The second shows the SE-143 tuner manufactured in 1917 by National Electrical Supply Company (NESCO). It was manufactured for the US Navy (Bureau of Steam Engineering). On the right is the companion 1-tube "Audion detector box" manufactured by Western Electric.

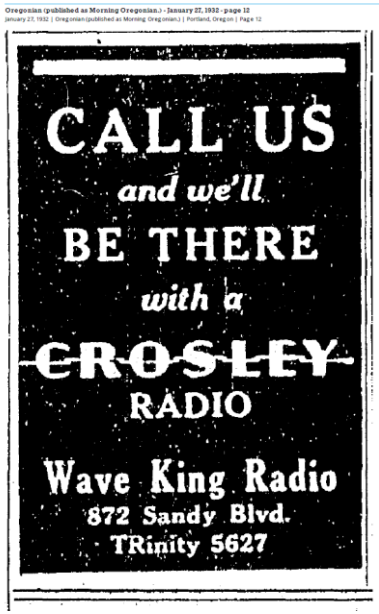


OK brand '01-A box

Dan Howard

Wave King Radio, Dealer, and Coils

by Art Redman


Oregonian (published as Morning Oregonian.) - January 27, 1932 - page 12
January 27, 1932 | Oregonian (published as Morning Oregonian.) | Portland, Oregon | Page 12
CALL US
and we'll
BE THERE
with a
CROSLEY
RADIO
Wave King Radio
872 Sandy Blvd.
TRinity 5627

The five- tube Wave King Radio receivers having two audio transformers originally sold for 90.00 at the Wave King Radio Shop at SE 28th and SE Sandy Blvd later discounted during March 1927 for $32.50. Edward E. Holman started as a Sparton Dealer in 1925 He considered his three-year-old son Rexy as his best sales representative at the Wave King Radio Shop 2830-2832 SE Sandy Blvd. By April 1931, Holman abandoned Sparton receivers and sold the Crosley and American Bosch brands. Today the old Wave King building is the Player's Racquet Shop.

Holman's first patent was an oil-burner granted in 1914. His second US Patent No. 1638996: "Air Core Transformer" filed May 27, 1924 and granted August 16, 1927. His residence was 925 Pacific Street now NE 3015 Pacific Street appeared on the Wave King receiver.

The Holman coil dating from 1924 is of the binocular shape having two separate self-supporting halves to eliminate inter-wire capacitance resulting in a higher quality or 'Q'. Therefore, the coil has maximum or pure inductance making it useful at higher frequencies of the short wave band. Too bad the set did not have three stages of resistor/capacitive coupling with its wide 100 kHz audio frequency response with the high frequency Holman RF coils. It would make Wave King a great short wave set able to receive early television broadcasts nationwide.

The main goal of the Wave King coil "is to construct a special form of transformer for high frequencies in which the mutual inductance is relatively large, and in which the leakage and losses are reduced materially when compared with closed and open core transformers such as are now in use". Dick Howard's pictures show that the coil shape under his Wave King receiver matches the original Holman patent drawing.

Aug. 16, 1927. 1,638,996

E. E. HOLMAN

AIR CORE TRANSFORMER

Filed May 27, 1925

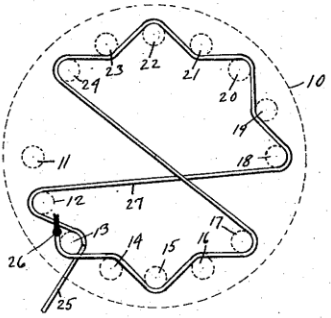


FIG. 1

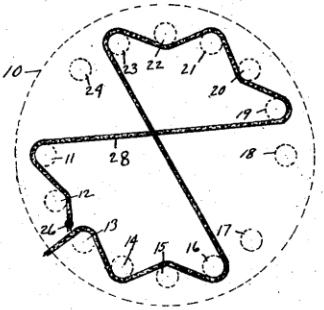


FIG. 2

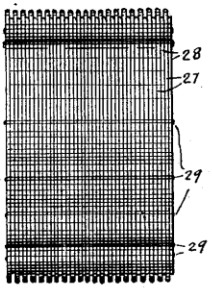


FIG. 4

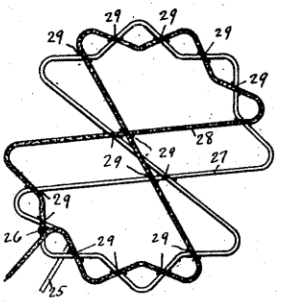


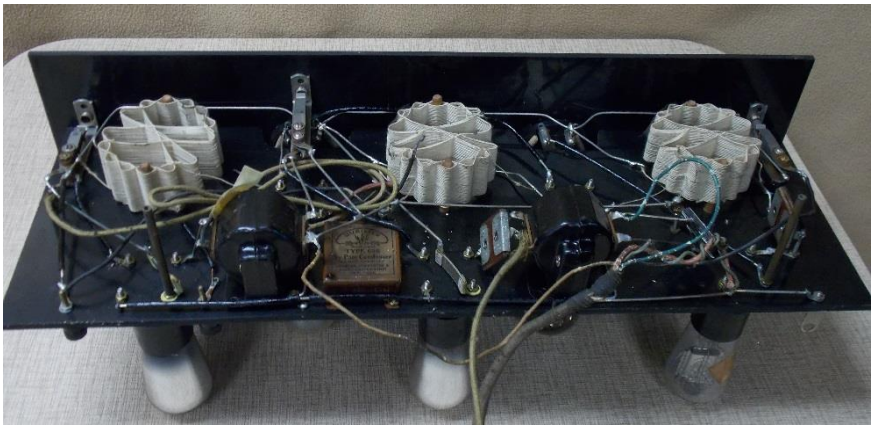
FIG. 3

Inventor

E. E. HOLMAN

By E. B. Birkenbeuel

Attorney



How I became interested in vintage radio restoration
by David Jorgenson

When I was a kid in the 1940's, I would sit by our huge radio (a similar one sits in our house at this moment) and listen to stories. My favorites were shows like "The Shadow Knows," and "The Lone Ranger."

Another inspiration was accompanying my Dad on a regular basis to use the floor model tube tester at the local drug store. Maintaining the memories of those excursions with Dad prompted me to not donate the large tube tester in my barn to the radio club; perhaps later, but not now, guys!

Further enforcing my interest in electronics, my Dad was employed at North American Aviation (NAA) as a supervisor in the engineering flight test lab. I also had the opportunity to work there during the summer. Near my home (bicycle distance) was the NAA electronic salvage yard where I spent a lot of time, digging around for electrical parts.

I grew up in the Inglewood, Hawthorne area in Southern California, graduating from Hawthorne High School with the now infamous Beach Boys. UCLA was my next destination, majoring in math, then developing an interest in geology. From there I earned a doctorate in geology and began my career, living in New Mexico, Michigan, Nevada, Ohio, and have now retired in Washington, acquiring radios along the way.

While in Michigan, I had a colleague who worked for the Central Michigan University radio station who was an ardent HAM operator. I caught the bug and obtained my license also. Later in life, I enrolled in a training program to learn the art of refinishing and repairing furniture. This training supported my efforts in restoring old radios.

My collection enlarged dramatically when meeting another collector who was in an advanced stage of Alzheimer's, a retired legislator in the state of Michigan, who was nicknamed "Abe" Lincoln. His wife offered me his collection, so I rented a U-Haul truck and filled it with his radios and equipment. Thus, I have the ability to donate a large quantity of floor and table model radios and the tubes and other accessories necessary for repair efforts. Making an old radio become operable has been a highlight in my life.

Have fun, members of NWVRS! Keep on encouraging the younger generation to learn your skills and the appreciation of an earlier era of entertainment. -- David Jorgenson, PhD Vaughn, Washington

---

My National SW3 receiver as shown at the meeting
by Mark Richardson

Pictures of my National SW3 receiver as shown at the March 13 2021 meeting. It is an amazing preforming 3 Tube regen with shielded RF amp stage. Takes 2 plug-in coil per band. Mine has 6 VAC tubes in it. Has a 37, 36 and a 39/44. The 39/44 is a pentode with the same pinout a 36 tetrode. Thinking the 39 is an improved substitution for the 36. The front panel brass on-off switch is most likely a modification (it does look like factory wiring). This version was produced early to mid-1930s.

"Naked Lady" Radio I showed on the zoom meeting
by Ed Tompkins

Left nipple: tuning knob.

Right nipple: on/off, volume.

Radio Captivates the World

by Mark Moore

"Radio Captivates the World" was inspired by the discovery of Gresham's first radio store operated by Floyd Mack, which was advertised in the 1923 Gresham Union High School Yearbook. Radio was relatively unknown before 1920, but it soon became the cutting-edge technology of the day. One hundred years later, those same radios are still capable of receiving programs that affect our lives every day.

We have tried to show the items that a radio store might sell one hundred years ago. A list of 142 radio stations appeared in the June 1922 issue of "Scientific American" and five of those stations were in Portland: KGG – operated by Hallock & Watson; KYG – operated by Willard P. Hawley Jr.; KGN – operated by Northwestern Radio Manufacturing Co.; KGW – operated by the Oregonian Publishing Co. and KQY which was operated by Stubbs Electric Co.

When radios were first developed in the early 1920s, they required two or three large batteries to provide the correct voltages to power the receiver. These radios were called battery sets, using direct current (DC). A radio owner would usually have to turn several knobs on the receiver to tune in a particular station. We have two battery-operated radios from 1924, a DeForest F5 and an Atwater Kent Model 20. We have several other battery sets from 1925 through 1927.

By 1925 or so, someone had the idea that a power supply could be added to a battery set to eliminate the use of large, messy batteries in the living room. By 1927, one of the first such sets, the Echophone Cathedral radio model S3 was available in radio stores. Other alternating current (AC) sets that could be plugged into an electrical outlet appeared in 1928 and radios became very popular. We have several early Cathedral radios from the 1930s. Also we have many radio accessories and advertising pieces as well as a case full of vintage microphones.

Echophone Radios

Radiola and Fada Radios

Radiolaguy's Monthly Showcase

By Sonny Clutter

C. E. "Sonny" Clutter; AKA: the RadiolaGuy
Web Site: http://www.radiolaguy.com Email: radiolaguy@outlook.com

Operating Your Vintage Television in the digital era

This image is not a phony - it was taken from a functioning TV. >>> Visit Sonny's site at the link below to learn how to watch old B&W TV shows on your vintage television.

https://www.radiolaguy.com/info/Operating_your_vintage_TV_in_the_digital_era.htm

---

Swap Shop

Ads are free and can be permanent, or 3-month, with an asterisk added each month for tracking. Contact editor to extend.
Please contact the following members to be trained in Radio Repair:

Jan and Glenn Anderson	425 750 7600	Longview
Bruce Baur	503 708-4537	Milwaukee
Blake Dietze	360 944-7172	Vancouver
Mike McCrow	503 730-4639	Aloha
Ed Tompkins	360 573-3895	Vancouver

WANTED: Radios made in Oregon. I do have some to trade. Thanks in advance. Dick Howard (503) 775-6697 dhoward27@comcast.net
---
FOR SALE: B.F. Goodrich Model R459 AM + SW (big console) $20. Also a Philco Model 20 Table Top for $70 and a Silvertone Model 6074 1930 Tabletop $50. Have a good day. Call Robbie Robinson 503 810 0565

FOR SALE: Hammarlund HQ-180 general coverage short wave receiver, 18 tube triple conversion. Plays well on all bands and in excellent condition. Asking $165.00 or best offer. Ray Nelson 503 845-2897 <ra**dio**ray39@gmail.com> ***

1,500 45 RPM records for sale. A lot of late 1950's and early 1960's Doo Wop records. $300.00 for all. Electronically restored General Motors model 140 console radio. Very beautiful cabinet. $300.00 - Steve K. (541) 388-9978 *** ➔

There are 3 pieces of equipment that I am hoping to find in the local area:
General Radio Standard Signal Generator, Type 805
Hallicrafters SX-12 Commercial Skyrider
Hallicrafters, S-37 (or S-27/C, S-27/CA)
Jeff Quay jeff_quay@hotmail.com ***

Karl is looking for transistor radio potentiometers. I believe the generic part number I'm looking for is F-12SG. 250k ohm or higher. 1meg ohm would be ideal. A couple of decent working used ones from 9v battery transistor radios would work. Your Friend, - Karl :)_ Karl Schultz The Cabinet Broker 503-620-5636 (office) 503-957-9254 (cell) 503-598-9366 (fax) 11725 SW Queen Elizabeth Ave Suite B King City, Or 97224

I collect and restore record players / phonographs with tubes, any and all table tops, portables, even Consoles! If you have one with tubes that is in your way, and that you would like to get rid of or sell cheaply, please get in touch with me. I also will repair or restore yours if you need help in that way. Email me a picture, or give me a call.
Thanks! John Livingston 503-708-2987

Military radios: 2 ea. R392 receivers, 2 ea. R662 transceivers, 1 ea. AM3349 400 watt RF amplifier. Complete but untested and came from the estate of a very active local ham. Lots of cables and manuals too. $1200 for everything. Tektronix 575 curve tracer. Includes the high voltage testing mod and Tek cart and original manual. Does not power on - no further troubleshooting has been done. - $350
Bill Holeman <bpasok@live.com>

For sale: Edison Chalet diamond disc wind up phonograph. Works well and is fairly uncommon to find. $125.00
Victor Victrola Model IX wind up phonograph works well and is nice shape. $150.00
Unidyne B 515SB-G18 microphone. Condition unknown. $10.00
Old horn speaker and base. No guts inside but looks real neat. $15.00
Pics available. Contact Pat at patkagi@yahoo.com Thanks, Pat

NW Vintage Radio Society
P.O. Box 82379
Portland, Oregon 97282-0379

FIRST CLASS MAIL